



May 2008  
Volume 8, Issue 5

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Volunteer Spotlight
- 1 Deadline Draws Near for Chartering
- 2 Preventing Injuries Should Be A Priority
- 2 Baseball Quote
- 2 Every Kid Deserves Equal Time
- 2 Mini Trivia Quiz
- 3 2008 Tournament Sites and Dates
- 4 Trivia Quiz Answers
- 5 Regional Tournament Contract Signings

Evelyn Gouveia  
Asst. Middle Atlantic Reg. Comm.

Evelyn.Gouveia@ITT.com

# Around The Horn

*News for the Middle Atlantic Region*

## *Volunteer Spotlight*

With Mother's Day falling in the month of May it's only fitting that this month's newsletter focuses on those unsung heroes.

Baseball moms never miss their sons or daughters' games and their kids know that they are always there to cheer them on. Moms offer praise for games won and encouragement after games lost.

Moms are often the ones who stress that competition is necessary but it only when young players do their best, respect their teammates, and respect and play by the rules, that the competition is healthy and successful.



It is the moms who know that when it comes to youth sports, less is more. Their intuition tells them that playing on too many teams in too many games is not in the best interest of their son or daughter.

The role of a Baseball Mom is often looked at as only to chauffeur their kids to and from practices, support their kids from

the stands, and run concession stands.

Moms can offer so much more. Many moms are just as knowledgeable about the game of baseball as the dads and should be given the opportunity to serve as coaches, administrators, and members of boards of directors of their local league.

So here's to Baseball Moms for all they do. The memories they share with their kids' last forever in both their hearts and their sons' and daughters. ♦

## Deadline Draws Near for Chartering

Has your league gotten their charter in yet? Headquarters has extended the deadline to **June 1<sup>st</sup>** to have your paperwork submitted.

Remember that you also have to have your rosters submitted to Headquarters and your State Commissioner before your first game is played.

Take care of the paperwork now so that there won't be any problem in the future. The State Commissioner won't issue your league a Letter of Eligibility unless all of the requirements have been met per Rule 11.01 of the Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations ♦

## Preventing Injuries Should Be a Priority

One of the most important responsibilities a league and coaches have is to prevent injuries as much as possible for the young people entrusted to them.

Make sure that the equipment a player uses fits properly and is worn properly. This includes using the proper mitt for the proper position, and wearing a batting helmet while at the plate, on deck or when running the base paths.

Adults, whether coaches or those maintaining the fields, should inspect the fields for holes, glass and other debris.

Managers, coaches and parents should follow the guidelines about the number of inning pitches as specified in the Babe Ruth Rules & Regulations, not by the number of teams a child plays on.

All adults involved in the league should be knowledgeable about basic first aid and be able to administer to minor injuries. Leagues must also be prepared for emergencies and have a plan to reach medical personnel for more serious injuries.

Injuries aren't always avoidable in a game, but doing as much as you can to prevent them and knowing what to do if one occurs can make the game more enjoyable and beneficial for everyone. ♦

## Baseball Quote

"It [baseball] also makes it easier for the generations to talk to one another."

-- *Poet Joel Oppenheimer*

## Every Kid Deserves Equal Time

As the season starts up leagues should emphasize to all of their coaches that equal playing time for every kid should be the rule, not the exception.

This does not mean that a coach plays his "favorites" or "best kids" all of the game and substitutes the other kids in and out of one or two positions in the lineup. Sure, every kid gets in the game but this is not equal playing time.

Think about it. Say there is a policy that every kid plays fifty percent of each game in an eight game season. Six players play seventy-five to one hundred percent of the game while the remaining players shared the remaining time. Sure they all played fifty percent of each game, but in reality the subs had thirty-five minutes of playing time, instead of the upwards of seventy that the "favored" players had each week.

Giving the "best" players more time to play than the so-called "weaker" players doesn't allow the "weaker" players to develop their skills. It also isn't much fun.

But assuming that coaches will keep winning in

perspective and emphasize having fun and skill development isn't always going to happen. Put a coach in front of other adults and often he is likely to morph into Bill Martin. The fun "instructional" atmosphere becomes game 7 of the World Series.

That is why coaches need to develop their lineups and substitution plans before the game. Having a plan to follow lets a coach keep track of each player better, it lets the players know they will all have truly equal time to play, and it lets the parents know that the coach is not playing "favorites".

Remember these three things:

- Every parent paid the same registration fee for their child to play.
- Every kid deserves an equal chance to play and learn new skills.
- Most kids play sports to have fun, not to win.

## Mini Trivia Quiz

1. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching the ball?
2. There are seven ways a base ball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls (a walk) is one way. Name the other six.

## 2008 TOURNAMENTS

### Regional Tournaments

***Cal Ripken Div. 10 year-old***

**Site:** Troy, NY

**Dates:** July 24 – 28

***Cal Ripken Div. Major/60'***

**Site:** Bridgewater, NJ

**Dates:** July 24-28

***Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'***

**Site:** Edison, NJ

**Dates:** July 24-29

***13-year-old***

**Site:** Washington Twp., NJ

**Dates:** Aug 1-6

***14-year-old***

**Site:** State College, PA

**Dates:** July 31-Aug 5

***13-15 year old***

**Site:** North Syracuse, NY

**Dates:** July 31- Aug. 5

***16-18 year old***

**Site:** Chester, PA

**Dates:** July 24-29

### Invitational Tournaments

***8-year-old***

**Site:** TBD

**Dates:** Aug 8-11

***9-year-old***

**Site:** Hamilton, NJ

**Dates:** Aug 7-13

***11-year-old/ 60 ft.***

**Site:** Clifton Park, NY

**Dates:** Aug 8-12

***11-year-old/ 70 ft.***

**Site:** Washington Twp., NJ

**Dates:** Aug 7-12

***16-year-old***

**Site:** TBD

**Dates:** Aug 1-4

### World Series

***Cal Ripken 10 and under***

**Site:** Abbeville, LA

**Dates:** Aug. 8-15

***Cal Ripken Div. Major/ 60'***

**Site:** Martin, TN

**Dates:** Aug. 7-14

***Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'***

**Site:** Aberdeen, MD

**Dates:** Aug. 9-16

***13-year-old***

**Site:** Jamestown, NY

**Dates:** Aug, 16-23

***14-year-old***

**Site:** Quincy, MA

**Dates:** Aug. 16-23

***13-15 year old***

**Site:** Van Buren, AR

**Dates:** Aug. 15-22

***16-18 year old***

**Site:** Newark, OH

**Dates:** Aug. 7-16

---

---

***SOFTBALL 12U***

**Site:** Luzerne County, PA

**Dates:** Aug. 7-14

***SOFTBALL 16U***

**Site:** Pittsfield, MA

**Dates:** Aug. 1-8



## Regional Tournament Contract Signings:



13-15 YEAR OLD MAR 2009 TOURNAMNET CONTRACT SIGNING @ MILLVILLE NJ BABE RUTH  
BACK ROW - LEFT TO RIGHT - RICH JONES & MIKE FONSECA - STAFF MEMBERS  
FRONT ROW - PRESIDENT DAVE ANDREWS - MAR ASSISTANT JACK SEDDON - APRIL 9TH 2008



12 Year Old 40/60 Tournament Contract Signing @ Regional Spring Meeting  
Bridgewater President Mike Posner & Regional Commissioner Ray Lotierzo - April 5, 2008

## Trivia Quiz Answers:

- 1) Baseball
- 2) Batter hit by a pitch; passed ball; catcher interference; catcher drops third strike; fielder's choice; and being designated as a pinch runner

